



East Anglia (Colchester) Branch
Registered Charity - 1126624

Branch Chairman

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4 Oct 24

Ref: Colchester Airborne Soldier Statue

Dear fellow PRA Branch Chairmen,

I write to you as the project lead for the planned Airborne Soldier Statue here in Colchester which will see the unveiling of a life sized, modern day bronze paratrooper to commemorate 25 years of 16 Air Assault Brigade in Colchester Garrison.

The success and impact of the Aldershot 'drop order' Paratrooper statue which was unveiled in 2017 to commemorate 50 years of the Airborne Forces Brigade in Aldershot Garrison has been tremendous. It continues to be a symbol and focal of the pre-2000 era.

As part of Defence Arms Plot Moves, in 1999 the first 16 Air Assault Units started arriving in Colchester Garrison and were fully established by 2000. 2025 marks 25 years of an exceptional period of operational deployments, spearhead tasks and reconfiguration into a modern era of warfighting. Two VCs and a plethora of awards at the lowest level is testament to the grit and determination of our young paratroopers who have kept our legacy alive.

On behalf of 16 Air Assault Brigade, our four current battalions, all airborne forces supporting arms, past, present and future, we wish to mark this historic occasion by creating a drop order paratrooper in 'overhead assault mode' (OHAM), mounted on a 6ft plinth, standing tall, on Abbey Field, just outside the front entrance to Merville Barracks, Colchester, home of the Airborne Forces Brigade.

In collaboration with the Airborne Forces Memorial Fund Aldershot (Tommy Simpson and Richard Stacey), HQ 16 AA Bde, RHQ PARA and Support our Paras (SOP), we will be delivering this project for our airborne community. It comes at cost though, currently planned at £160,000 of which we have already raised £100,000 via various initiatives. We have 12 months until the unveil date and to raise the remaining £60,000.

My petition therefore to all PRA Branches is to request a donation to support the creation of this fantastic endeavour. We have already received generous donations from a couple of branches which is absolutely fantastic.

We, as a PRA have real opportunity in supporting this project, offering visibility, influence and impact, hopefully attracting younger members and growing our brotherhood. This modern-day paratrooper statue will act as a tribute to our ethos, our existence, and everything we stand for, young, old, past, present and future.

Once the details of the unveiling ceremony event are clearer, they will be pushed out to all via the regular PRA Newsletters.

Yours sincerely
Curt Vines

If you as a branch or individuals wish to donate, the details are:

National Westminster Bank

Business account name: Colchester Airborne Soldier Statue

Account number: 23857692

Account sort code: 60-05-33

- The QR code on the image will take you straight to the account.
- I can provide a written receipt for treasurer transaction documentation.
- Please use / share the graphic below with whom you wish.

**Social Media**

Please follow us on Social Media. The more followers we have, the more traction, interest and hopefully funds we are able to raise.

We are documenting the story of the project and will also reflect on 25 years of Airborne Forces in Colchester by counting down the years over the next 12 months.